Pre-Veterinary Curriculum

MSU offers pre-veterinary coursework and advising for students interested in pursuing admission into any school or college of veterinary medicine. MSU’s pre-veterinary curriculum is not a major from which students will graduate, and ‘pre-vet’ is not a degree-granting option on the MSU campus. Rather, it is an advising program and a series of required undergraduate classes that prepare students for admission into schools of veterinary medicine. The Pre-Veterinary Intake major is supported through the College of Agriculture, and we offer several resources to students who are interested in attending a veterinary medical program after their MSU baccalaureate careers. MSU’s College of Agriculture and College of Letters and Science have pre-vet advisors available who work with students as they prepare to apply for admission to schools of veterinary medicine.

The State of Montana does not have a college of veterinary medicine. However, Montana State University participates in the WIMU Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine, a cooperative program offered through Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The program’s first year of study is on the MSU campus, with the next three years of study housed in Pullman, on the Washington State University campus. Montana currently supports ten students through this program. Montana residents may also compete for admission to veterinary school through a contract agreement with WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education). Information on the current status of this program in Montana may be obtained by contacting the Commissioner for Higher Education Office in Helena, MT.

MSU Pre-Veterinary Course Requirements

This outline is designed to qualify students to apply to the WIMU program; carefully read all information on required courses, and if you have any questions about qualifying for admission to a veterinary medicine program, please contact your academic advisor(s).

1. Chemistry *
   - CHMY 141 College Chemistry I
   - CHMY 143 College Chemistry II
   - CHMY 211 Elements of Organic Chemistry
   - BCH 380 Biochemistry

   For students without a strong background in chemistry, consider taking CHMY 121IN as a preparatory course before taking CHMY 141. This is not usually done, but it is an option. CHMY 121IN is not required for the pre-veterinary curriculum and does not count as an elective. Some undergraduate degree curricula may require CHMY 321 and CHMY 323 or equivalent; these will substitute for CHMY 211 for all vet schools.

   *Includes appropriate labs.

2. Biology
   - BIOB 160 Principles of Living Systems
   or BIOB 260 Cellular and Molecular Biology
   - BIOB 170IN Principles of Biological Diversity
   - BIOB 375 General Genetics
   or ANSC 322 Principles of Animal Breeding and Genetics

3. Mathematics
   - M 161Q Survey of Calculus

   The math requirement changes frequently, but all science degrees require M 161Q.

4. Statistics
   - STAT 216Q Introduction to Statistics

5. Physics
   - PHSX 205 College Physics I

6. English
   - WRIT 101W College Writing I
   - COMX 111US Introduction to Public Speaking

7. Electives
   - WSU requires 27 General Education requirements and electives. The general education requirements concern only those students who have not obtained a B.S. degree before entering the professional program.

8. Recommended Electives
   Remaining electives are recommended to be in Biotechnology/Animal System, Animal Science, Biology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Business courses, or possibly other areas. Electives should be used to obtain credits in the curriculum chosen for a degree. Once a degree curriculum is decided on, proper selection of electives may make it easier to complete the pre-veterinary requirements and degree requirements simultaneously.